

DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION

Office of Equality Assurance
City of San José . Public Works Department
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, California

MINUTES

April 14, 2008

Commissioners Present

Mary Brown
Susan Espinoza
Emma Eljas
Anette Howell
Erik Kaeding
Jackie O'Donnell
Otila Salazar
Aaron Morrow (Commissioner Emeritus)
Karl Vidt (Commissioner Emeritus)
Richard Kohl (Senior Commission Liaison)

Commissioners Absent

Jeffrey Lewis
Kevin Lichtenberg
Susie Souza

Council Liaison Present

Stephanie Holm for Councilmember Pyle

Staff Present

Steve Wing, ADA Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Chair Espinoza called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. Orders of the Day & Agenda Approval

Upon the motion of Commissioner Eljas, seconded by Commissioner O'Donnell, the Orders of the Day and Agenda were approved unanimously.

3. Approval of March , 2008 Minutes

Upon the motion of Commissioner Kaeding, seconded by Commissioner Brown, the Minutes as presented were approved unanimously.

4. Open Forum

Aaron Morrow reported that he attended an evening meeting at City Hall a couple of months ago. After the meeting, he had staff contact security to let him into the Council Chamber elevator lobby so he could wait for his Outreach paratransit ride. However, security never responded and Mr. Morrow had to wait outside in the dark. Steve Wing said that he would check with General Services and make sure that a procedure for using this location as a paratransit waiting area was in place.

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5. Council Liaison Report

Stephanie Holm informed the DAC that the City Council has scheduled a budget study session on Monday, May 12, 2008, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. which conflicts with the DAC's Annual Roundtable meeting. After discussion, the DAC decided to reschedule the Annual Roundtable meeting to its meeting on August 11, 2008.

6. Chairperson Report – Susan Espinoza

No Report

7. Santa Clara County Advisory Commission For People With Disabilities Liaison Report – Aaron Morrow

Mr. Morrow reported that the County commission is considering broadcasting their meetings on the internet and this is being supported by Supervisor Ken Yeager.

8. Senior Commission Liaison Report – Richard Kohl

Mr. Kohl reported that assistive listening devices are being provided to any member of the Senior Commission on a regular basis. He also reported that City Manager Debra Figone came to their last meeting and discussed with them that one-third of the City's workforce will be retiring over the next five years.

9. Approval of Street Crown letter to DOT

The Commission discussed the draft letter and after making several edits, upon the motion of Commissioner Kaeding, seconded by Commissioner O'Donnell, the letter was approved unanimously.

10. Agenda for the Annual Roundtable Meeting

This item was deferred for discussion at the next meeting since the date of the Annual Roundtable meeting has been rescheduled to August 2008.

11. Standing Commission Items

a. Emergency/Disaster Planning for Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Morrow reported that a new US Geological Services earthquake map and prediction was released which only emphasizes the need for everyone to be prepared. Ms. Espinoza reported that this item had been discussed at the DAC Committee meeting as one of the topics for the Annual Roundtable.

b. Therapeutic Services – Strategic Plan, Services for Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Wing attended the most recent most recent Advisory Board for this group and reported that they are still interested in having another DAC member join the group. Mr. Wing explained for the benefit of the new DAC members that

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this Board was formed several years ago to assist with the implementation of the Office of Therapeutic Services(OTS) Strategic Plan for providing services for persons with disabilities. It is now assisted by Council Member Pete Constant who took over from former Council Member Linda LaZotte and members from several community organizations that provide services to persons with disabilities.

c. VTA and Paratransit Service Issues

Commission Eljas reported that the VTA is continuing the audit of its operations and management. One of the issues is the make up of the VTA Board of Directors and the length of the terms. Commissioner Morrow added that there is some concern about how this discussion is occurring he believes it needs to be more transparent to the public. He also reported that there have been no problems with paratransit services.

d. Envision San José 2040

Further discussion of this topic will be considered as part of the DAC Workplan discussion. Commissioner Kaeding requested affordable housing information related to housing for persons with disabilities. He will send Mr. Wing an email clarifying his questions so that this information can be requested from the Housing Department.

e. DAC Workplan

This topic was discussed in relation to what issues would be included on the Annual Roundtable agenda. The Commission thanked and recognized Commissioner Salazar for developing issues lists and discussion posters to assist this discussion. Further discussion was deferred to future DAC meetings.

12. ADA Coordinator Report

Mr. Wing referred to the memo he submitted to the DAC concerning the installation of induction loop assistive listening systems (ALS). He reported that since the City has limited funds and already has FM assistive listening systems in place in some City facilities, he would like input from the DAC on the following proposed recommendation:

1. Install induction loop ALS in remaining bond project libraries and community centers if sound systems have been specified for their meeting rooms.
2. Develop a transition plan for the consideration of installing induction loop ALS in Senior Centers.
3. Do not consider induction loop ALS in other City facilities at this time and continue to offer use of the existing FM ALS.

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There were comments from the DAC that this was a reasonable approach to the requests for the City to install induction loop assistive listening systems in City facilities.

13. Announcements

No additional announcements

14. Agenda Development

The Housing Department will be invited to a future meeting to further discuss affordable housing for people with disabilities.

The DAC will also consider inviting a speaker to provide information about autism and other developmental disabilities, possibly for a meeting in the fall.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.